

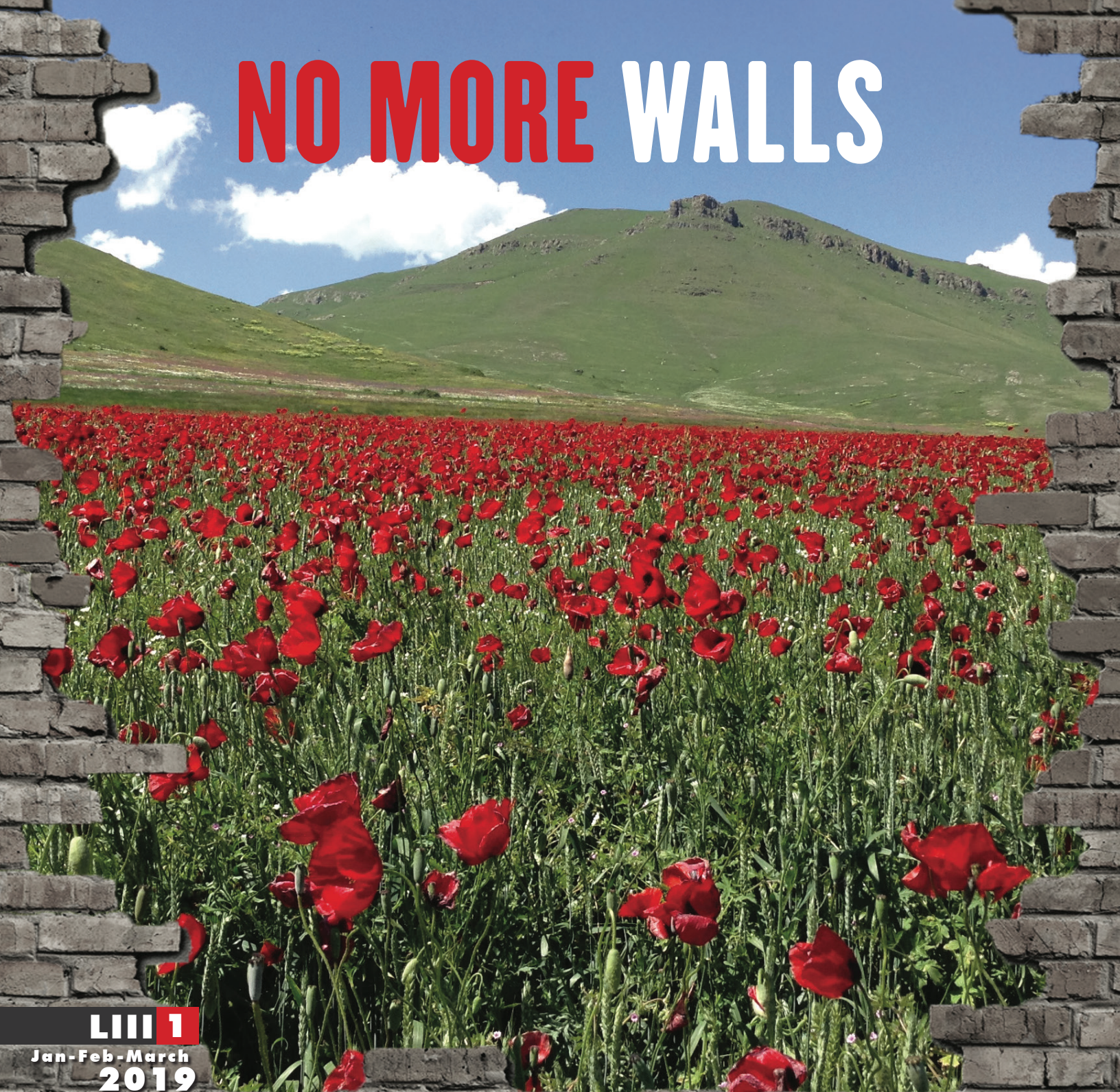
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ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



AMMA

NEWS

NO MORE WALLS



LIII 1

Jan-Feb-March

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In Memoriam: Dr. Mihran Agbabian 1923-2019 (p. 31)

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Cover Photo: Lori, Armenia - landscape with poppy fields. Photo by Louisa Janbazian.

NO MORE WALLS

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good. Romans 12:21

By **Zaven Khanjian**, AMAA Executive Director/CEO

What word have Americans heard most in the past several months? *Wall* would be a good contender for first place.

Walls are an integral part of our lives. They are all around us. In our homes, offices, properties, parks, gardens, parking structures.

The dictionary defines *wall* as 'a high, thick masonry structure.... chiefly for defense.'

God did not create the wall.

Early man created the necessity as a result of his behavior and need for protection, defense and convenience and thus built the wall. Society evolved to create larger, longer ramparts which surrounded cities and towns.

It is ironic that while walls protect, they also hold an adverse function. Walls separate, block, impede, obstruct and restrict.

Civilization knocked down the walls, inhabiting hills and prairies, liberating imagination, stimulating creativity and confining walls to touristic attractions.

Or so we thought.

Walls do not come in just brick and mortar. They bear many ugly faces. The inhumanity of man has applied mental, psychological and physiological forms of walls. Religious persecution, slavery, poverty, racial discrimination, occupation, oppression, censure, sanctions, blockade, hate and abuse are all ugly faces of walls.

On my home office desk I have a stunning photo of my father at age 14 covered in rags while enrolled as the only Christian Armenian in a Turkish school. Intimidated, bullied and constantly spat at, my father spun out of the persecution walls into the welcoming arms of his Syrian hosts and, like many of his orphaned kin, proudly advanced himself.

A friend of the AMAA has reminded me how much he is agonized, but also greatly inspired, by picturing his father confined to the walls of refuge, orphaned and homeless, and vows to liberate children from the constraints of their miseries.

A dignified professional imprisoned in an open solitude, tortured by the loss of loved ones, passionately cries for the safety of persecuted Christians, generously contributing the means.

A super hero with a golden heart can't wait to see a Child Sponsorship posting on AMAA's Donor Shop and then grab the opportunity to dignify a child with improved living conditions.

An angelic anonymous couple, humbled by the love of God, magnanimously contribute to the AMAA and disseminate the Word of God and illuminate lives in all aspects in areas darkened by conditions beyond one's control.

A family who unselfishly and generously pursue the passion of giving to educate the youth, arm them with a degree in higher education and lead them to independence in the arena of life.

These are true examples of breaking down walls.

Today, in 2019, we are at the dawn of the AMAA's second century leaving behind a Century of Faith, Love and Service. The legacy of Faith, Love and Service is perpetual.

Our vision during the AMAA's second century is to demolish walls of poverty, shatter obstructions and hindrance to education, spread the Word beyond limits, emancipate imagination and to thrust our youth into open fields of creativity, soaring high, taking the lead and perpetuating the mission.

We are blessed with your generous support each and every day and pray that there will be no more walls on the path of AMAA's important mission. □



Two Questions

By Rev. Dr. Vartkes M. Kassouni

The celebration of the **Centennial of the AMAA holds great meaning for us**. Like the song says, it is “a many-splendored thing.” That which began as a small stream has grown into a mighty river, flowing with life-giving water for the thirsty and nourishing food for the hungry. This may be the right time to expand our self-awareness as Armenians in America and assume our mission to America while we continue to focus on what our mission could and should include in the next 100 years. We are no longer guests here, but members of a great family formed by immigrants from all over the world. There is no other country in the world like America!

At the beginning of our banquets we all stand as two national anthems are either played or sung: first, the American, then the Armenian. Let me share with you some thoughts on the Star Spangled Banner. It is a way of affirming what it takes to make us proud of being Americans and true patriots.

Our American national anthem is a stirring, exhilarating, challenging, and disturbing song. It is a declaration and a call to reaffirm our loyalty to our country. It is a unique anthem, and I do believe the only one of its kind in the world (as far as I know), in that it opens with the question “**Oh say can you see...?**”, and closes with another question, “**Does that star spangled banner yet wave, o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?**”

The genius of this anthem is that it draws us (me) into its orbit with the inquiry “**Can we see?**” What do we see? What does it mean? What does it say? What does it declare?

Patriotism is much more than waving the flag. It is a call to keeping before our eyes what has made America great, what has made it free, and what is required of us. It is not just “Do you see?” but “Can you see?” What are the values that stand out in our land being displayed by the flag, and what are the freedoms being emphasized by its closing question?

In other words, “**Tell me, is America still great and still free?**” It is **not sight** being called for but **insight**. Sight alone is thrilling, of course. Seeing the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor for the first time was for me, as for countless other immigrants, an awe-inspiring sight. It is our country’s “Welcome to America” beacon! Insight goes deeper than the physical act of seeing. It means understanding and appreciating what the flag stands for. Pledging ourselves to the maintaining, upholding, and celebrating of this fantastic country takes on new meaning when we study our country today and ponder whether we are still “**One nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.**”

The action of kneeling athletes is a simple yet profoundly dramatic declaration of protest, calling on us to take a careful look (with insight, not sight) at America and do something about it. It disturbs us because it holds a challenge to us to do something about what’s happening in America today: hundreds of thousands of people homeless; millions below the poverty line; attempts at providing health-care for all blocked, with no viable alternative being offered; the richest one percent in the country accumulating over 80 percent of the country’s wealth; billions for armaments and “defense” but pennies for the poor. “**Oh say, can you see? Does that banner yet wave?**”

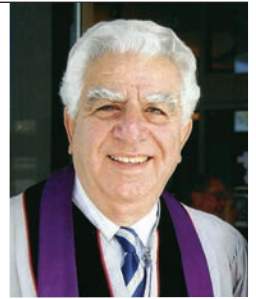


Recently, while taking a walk during a stay at my daughter’s home in the community of Gold River (Sacramento, CA area), I came across a sign on their neighbor’s lawn. Superimposed on the flag of the United States was this statement. It is an insightful pledge of allegiance and patriotism: **IN OUR AMERICA: All people are equal; Love is Love; Black lives matter; Immigrants and refugees are welcome; Science is Real; Women’s rights are Human Rights; People and planet are valued over profit; Diversity is celebrated.**

Congratulations, AMAA! You have taken your worthy place among significant organizations dedicated to the cause of advocacy on behalf of and service to people in dire need – physical and spiritual. Your reach is long, and your voice is strong. Keep reaching out to feed the hungry, to lift up the fallen, to free the enslaved. And keep raising your voice in the cause of freedom.

Through it all stay humble, seek God’s guidance, and do it in the spirit of Christ, our Lord. Remember your logo is that of the Cross superimposed on the globe. It is not a symbol of conquest but of self-sacrificing service.

Long ago, Jesus offered liberty to his hearers, but they were offended. “We are slaves to no one, we are children of Abraham!” was their response. “We are Americans, we have Abraham Lincoln as our father...” could be our similar response. Bonds of slavery are broken by spiritual forces embodied in Jesus’ offer, which in turn develop our values and our understanding of service to our country. “**If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.**” □



Meet Our Veteran Pastors

Rev. Vigen Galustian



Vigen Galustian was born in Hamadan, Iran. After graduating from French High School in Tehran, he received his higher education in Beirut, Lebanon at the Near East School of Theology (NEST) and Haigazian University, receiving his degree in Theology in 1961. He was ordained by the Presbyterian Synod of Iran on May 20, 1962 and became Pastor of the Evangelical Church of Tehran. That same month, he married Marie Apissogomian of Alexandria, Egypt.

He served the Tehran Evangelical Church (Persian speaking) until September of 1968. Upon receiving an extended Sabbatical leave, the family returned to Beirut where Vigen completed his graduate work at NEST, graduating in June 1970 with a Master's degree in Divinity. While studying in Beirut, Vigen served the Armenian Evangelical Church of Damascus, Syria as a weekend visiting Pastor for two years. The Lord blessed the couple with three precious children, Jane, Jessica and Ted.

During his pastoral ministry, Rev. Galustian has been an active minister first in Iran and later in the United States and has held various responsibilities in the field of Christian Education and camp programs for children and youth. From 1965-1967, he worked closely with the Radio Ministry on the Near East Committee for Radio Voice of the Gospel – a radio station located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia which broadcasted throughout the Middle East.

In June 1970, he and his family settled in the United States. The Commission of Ecumenical Missions and Relations of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA appointed Rev. Galustian to the staff of the Synod of the Rockies as a pioneer Mission Interpreter. He served in this capacity through June 1971.

From 1971-1998, Rev. Galustian served as Pastor of the United Armenian Calvary Congregational Church of Troy, NY; Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, CA; First Congregational Church of Oakland, CA and Church of the Valley, UCC, Santa Clara, CA. He also filled the vacant pulpit of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Downey, CA for a short time.

Since 1990, he was involved in short-term mission work in Armenia; Tbilisi, Georgia; Minsk, Belarus and Moscow, Russia using either his educational leave or vacation time. His mission trips in Armenia and Georgia, sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), involved various pastoral services in several cities in Armenia and with Junior Camps in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Rev. Galustian was also actively involved in community services and served on various church and community boards. Upon his initiative, and with the full financial support of West Valley Presbyterian Church's mission department and the AMAA's help in facilitating the transfer of funds, the first Armenian Soup Kitchen was established on January 17, 2000 in Tbilisi, Georgia. This Soup Kitchen was a lifeline for 60–70 elderly men and women who received one hot meal Monday through Friday at lunchtime. Hot food was also served to some homebound seniors on a regular basis.

After 37 years of full-time parish ministry, he and his wife Marie took an early retirement to devote their time to short-term mission work for Vigen and a prayer ministry for Marie.

Soon after Rev. Galustian's early retirement, he was called to serve as Sabbatical Replacement Minister in the Community Congregational Church of Sunnyvale, CA from December 1998 through March 1999. Since May of 1999, Rev. Galustian and Marie have also served the Armenian Evangelical Church in Chicago by occasional visits of three to four weeks providing pastoral services and filling the vacant pulpit. Rev. Galustian also served the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Paramus, NJ in the same capacity in 2001.

In recent years, Vigen and Marie have been enjoying traveling and doing short-term mission work. They specially love spending time with their three married children and six grandchildren both in California and Kansas.

All being well and God willing, Vigen and Marie hope to continue spending their time in Christian ministry and witness to the glory and love of God in Christ Jesus. To this end, they are currently actively involved in the worship, witness and congregational care of their local church. □

Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church Pasadena, CA



With faith, visionary foresight and determination, a handful of dedicated Christians of Armenian descent, among whom were Stephan Salisian - more affectionately known as “Salis Papa” - and Setrack Timourian, met and formed the nucleus of a church first called the Armenian Congregational Mission of Pasadena whose official beginning date was Sunday, June 18, 1922.

In the beginning, Sunday services were held in the homes of various members and, as the congregation grew, they started to meet at rented community and church halls. On April 7, 1927, the Armenian Congregational Mission changed its name to the Armenian Cilicia Congregational Church. A Church Constitution and Bylaws were drawn and adopted, and 52 Charter Members signed them. This Church was formally recognized by the Southern California Congregational Conference as a “Member Church” on November 10, 1927. Soon after, the Church edifice was erected at the northeast corner of Mountain Street and El Molino Avenue in Pasadena.

In August 1974, the El Molino property was sold due to severe deterioration of the surrounding area and Church services were held first at the Seventh-Day-Adventist Church, 1280 East Washington



Rev. Serop Megerditchian, Senior Pastor of Cilicia Church.



Cilicia Church Sunday School children.



Cilicia Church Choir with Choir Director Rev. John Khanjian, Ph.D. (back row, second from right), Pianist Esther Assilian (first row middle) and Rev. Serop Megerditchian, the Pastor of the Church.

Boulevard, Pasadena, and later at the Altadena Congregational Church, 943 East Altadena Drive, in Altadena.

The Church Family's long-time dream of once again owning its own Church building was realized when on June 2, 1991, the doors were opened at 339 South Santa Anita Avenue, Pasadena. On June 9, 1991, the Church was officially dedicated by the representatives of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA), and the Armenian Missionary Association of America.

A large Fellowship Hall and new kitchen facilities were added in 1996. All the architectural plans were prepared by Church member Luther Eskijian who was also the architect of the first church building on El Molino Avenue at Mountain Street.

Through the generosity of Henry and Anahis Derian and many friends and members of the Church, the buildings were completed and almost totally paid for. All these buildings and fundraising projects would not have been possible without the dedicated and selfless efforts of Seb Gertmenian, the Building Committee Chairman.

On November 17, 1996, the new Fellowship Hall was officially named the "Henry and Anahis Derian Fellowship Hall," following a dedication service and a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by many ministers and dignitaries of the AEUNA.

On October 28, 2000, during the Church's 78th Anniversary Banquet, the church mortgage debt was eliminated, and Mr. Gertmenian had the honor of burning the mortgage papers. The debt was incurred a decade earlier when the present facilities were acquired.

Rev. Serop Megerditchian has been Senior Pastor of the Church since July 2018. The average attendance at Sunday morning Worship Services is 80 people. Besides the Sunday morning Services and weekly Bible Studies (both in English and Armenian), the other active organizations are currently the Dorcas Guild, Ladies Auxiliary, Hye Couples, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Women's Bible Study & Spiritual Fellowship and Armenian Speaking (Conversational) Class. The Church and its Pastor Rev. Megerditchian have built a close fellowship with the sister churches and local organizations and often organize joint events on certain occasions and pay cordial visits to each other.

The following ministers have serviced the Church throughout the years: Rev. Sanatroug Shanlian, Rev. Misak M. Aijian, Rev.



Cilicia Church Ladies Auxiliary. L to R: Diana Tookmanian, Sirvart Ketenjian, Dr. Alina Megerditchian, Nazely Parikian, Angele Bedirian, Anahis Jambazian Derian, Ani Abadjian, Mariette Khanjian and Arous Albarian.



Armenian Conversational Class with Instructor Dr. John Ahmaranian.

Sarkis Devirian, Rev. Haigag Khazoyan, Rev. Haig Adadourian, Rev. H. Ashjian, Rev. Samuel M. Rejebian, Rev. Manasseh Papazian, Rev. Senekerim K. Sulahian, Rev. Siragan Aghbabian, Rev. Harold Hasessian, Rev. Puzant Levonian, Rev. Norair Melidonian, Rev. Samuel Agulian, Rev. Mihran G. Kupeyan and Rev. Kevork (George) Terian.

The Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church is confident that with the Lord's grace, help, guidance and assistance, the Church will continue to serve Him and His people by overcoming all obstacles and continue proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior. □



A Tribute to Three Retiring Haigazian University Board of Trustees Members Extraordinaire

Editor's Note: Crowned by decades of diligent and dedicated service to Haigazian University, Board of Trustee (BOT) members Vahe Nalbandian, Ph.D., Hrair Steven Aharonian, M.D. and Herair Mouradian deservedly retired from the Board on December 31, 2018. As Co-Owner and Founder of Haigazian University, the AMAA salutes these three gentlemen and remains immensely grateful for their many years of tireless service to Haigazian.

As a tribute to their Christ anchored service of love, current Haigazian Board of Trustee member Barkev Kassarian, Ph.D. and longtime colleague Louis Kurkjian share the following words of comradery and appreciation which upholds the invaluable contribution made by each of these retirees to the history, growth, development and upsurge of this renowned University, the only institution of higher learning in the Armenian Diaspora.

The AMAA takes this opportunity to similarly salute Dr. Kassarian for finding no fault in 'carrying his decades-old stereotype that such organizations provided a perfect platform for all those immigrants who, despite having prospered in the United States, carry some of their cultural baggage tenaciously' and for having joined the ranks of 'those immigrants' who have been lovingly and professionally carrying the same cultural baggage with an intensified tenacity since the early 2000s.

I sincerely thank both Dr. Kassarian and Mr. Kurkjian for contributing the following salutations to honor our retirees.

Vahe Nalbandian, Ph.D.

Haigazian University's financial systems have improved over the past several years with guidance and direction from Vahe Nalbandian, Ph.D., a member of the University's Board of Trustees. Vahe's extensive experience in financial systems and accounting has been, and continues to be, invaluable to the Trustees.

His leadership of the Finance Committee as it annually reviews the proposed financial plan generated by the President and staff has been effective and smooth. Each year, the President prepares and provides a proposed budget of both operating and capital needs to the Trustees. The Trustees' Finance Committee reviews the plans, makes recommendations, and presents the proposed plans at the meeting of the Trustees.

Vahe was active in dealing with past auditors who required keeping the fundraising arm of the University as part of the financial operations in Beirut. In this effort, he supported creation of the Haigazian University Support Fund, Inc. – which clearly separated the Trustees' fundraising arm from financial operations in Beirut. This new system has been in place for the past three years.

He also reviewed the accounting approach and management of funds that were received, held, and transmitted by the U.S. Treasurer. He suggested a number of operational improvements that were adopted and are now in place.

Vahe has been and continues to be an effective leader in many aspects of Armenian Evangelical community life. This goes well beyond his Haigazian University Trustee role and includes chairing



the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School Board, and other AMAA roles and responsibilities. He is truly appreciated by all for his outstanding volunteer leadership in our community.

Louis Kurkjian

Hrair Steven Aharonian, M.D.

Put rather simply, I joined the Haigazian Board Of Trustees (BOT), because of the then-AMAA Executive Director Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian, who sadly died shortly thereafter; I continued on the BOT because of Hrair Mouradian's relentless efforts to keep the School's operations on an even keel; but I continued on the Board through multiple appointments primarily because Steve Aharonian's wisely timed contributions to help guide the University's progress gave me hope for the future.

As a teenager in Aleppo, I had heard about Verabadveli Aharonian, Steve's father. I may have actually met him once, but for me he was such a larger than life character. I think my cloudy memory of him is derived primarily from the one sermon he gave at Emmanuel Church, and I got the impression that he was more of an intellectual, concerned with the training of future pastors at the Near East School of Theology, which he headed for many years. At the same time, he was involved in the establishment of Haigazian College; in my teenage typology of realms of expertise, this seemed like an awe inspiring example. Thinking back now, I realize that his main concern must have revolved around developing spiritual and intellectual leadership to safeguard the future of the Armenian Evangelical community.

I had heard about his son Steve (also known as Hrair), who seemed to have followed the path well-trodden by countless other AUB graduates in Medicine, who migrated to Southern California to seek their fortune, and mostly succeeded. It was my good fortune to meet and get to know Steve in informal circumstances, when he asked me if I would like to stay with them during my next BOT meeting in LA. Contrary to my expectations, I was reassured to find Steve and his wife Julie living in a comfortable but modest house in the Valley, and more significantly to find that we shared so many perspectives about the prospects and pitfalls facing Haigazian now, and especially in the near future.

In BOT sessions, Steve did not exude his father's magnetic charisma, or indulge in his father's inspirational *ex-cathedra* declarations. In almost every session of our Board meetings, Steve would listen to the discussion carefully, then he would ask a simple but incisive question, which unerringly went to the heart of the matter. His comments always reflected well-informed realism. For example, while we were discussing the projected costs of acquiring a new IT system, Steve cautioned us not to underestimate the unanticipated costs of training staff and de-bugging the new system, a bitter lesson painfully learned by many enthusiastic CEOs advocating the adoption of more sophisticated IT systems. Steve voiced similar cautions about the true costs that we would incur in rehabilitating old buildings; given the University's finances, this turned out to be a bitter pill that we had to swallow later on, with much regret.

Beyond his probing questions and well-timed cautions about projected costs of certain initiatives, or the layered needs for faculty development in preparation for getting accreditation, he would also act with quiet generosity. In addition to underwriting the costs of the small building on the Beirut campus where the BOT usually meets, in a recent year, he generously contributed to cover a significant



shortage in the HU budget for the year. Equally quietly, he financed the establishment of an investment laboratory, where students could complement their classroom learning with hands-on practice in actual stock markets. There may be other instances where Steve acted to finance a critical need, but always quietly, with no fanfare. Staying at their house I also could not avoid seeing Julie, faithfully up at 6:00 a.m. preparing all the condiments for the splendid breakfast we feasted on later that morning at the Church.

I was particularly impressed by Steve's ability to navigate tactfully through the sensitive interfaces between being President of the AMAA Board, and a member of the HU Board. He seemed to manage the interests of both institutions, without antagonizing either. Setting aside all his other virtues, his mastery of these dual roles deserves a medal!

Based on my work on other (mostly business) boards, I know we will miss Steve and his wise counsel, his penetrating questions, and his acts of quiet generosity. Personally, I will miss him deeply, his absence from the BOT will be like losing a comrade in arms.

I leave to more experienced hands the choice of an appropriate form of expressing our profound thanks to Steve, or designing the more fitting ritual we should organize to celebrate his many decades of unflagging service. I sincerely hope the BOT will also find creative ways to engage his continued participation in the governance of Haigazian.

Ya Hakeem, your tiresome guest at the Hotel Abu-Diran.

Barkev Kassarian

Herair Mouradian

I had known the Mouradian family from Emmanuel Church in Aleppo back in the 1940s and early 1950s. I think Herair and I overlapped at Aleppo College, though he was two years ahead of me. In those days, Herair was a serious young man, with rather thick eyeglasses, but every time his father started telling a story, Herair would break out into a wide grin, most likely anticipating the humorous punch line that he knew was coming. Baron Mouradian, as we called his father, possibly possessed the largest inventory of peculiar jokes in the entire Armenian Evangelical community in Haleb. In fact, I remember Baron Mouradian's face was creased at the laugh lines, just waiting for an opportunity to crack another joke.

I left Haleb on my own, having sold my violin and burning all my papers, shortly after getting my high school diploma at Aleppo College, never to see Herair Mouradian for the next 45 or so years when I joined the Haigazian College Board of Trustees (BOT). I was aware that Herair and his younger brother Hratch had pursued their Uncle Edward's business, but I had not met any of them after leaving Haleb. So, it was a great surprise when I received a phone call from Baron Edward Janjigian, it must have been in the early 2000s, suggesting strongly that I should respond in the affirmative, if and when I received a letter from Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian inviting me to join the Haigazian Board.

Over all the intervening years, from 1954 when I left Aleppo to this message from Baron Janjigian, I had managed to avoid getting involved in any Armenian organization of any stripe in the United States. I suppose I had been carrying my decades-old stereotype that such organizations provided a perfect platform for all those immigrants who had, despite having prospered financially in the US, carried some of their cultural baggage tenaciously.

Baron Janjigian's call had bothered me, it cut right across my long-held conviction *not* to join *any* Armenian do-gooding organization. On the other hand, Haigazian was an Armenian institution of higher learning, even though I had no idea about its academic standards, or specific history. So I called Baron Edward back; I explained my reluctance to be talked into joining a body that would waste much time debating the irrelevant. He assured me that once I had met Rev. Janbazian, I would change my mind.

Actually, two realities changed my mind after I joined the Haigazian Trustees: one was the infectious dynamism that Movses exuded, the second was Herair Mouradian's Chairmanship of the BOT. Herair pursued every item of the College's expenses, he demanded accountability for each initiative. He grilled the administration about the details of the College's Faculty Retirement Fund. He was always cautiously pessimistic about his expectations of good news. The more I listened to his well-reasoned challenges of expressed optimism, the more my respect for Herair's understanding of Haigazian's underlying vulnerabilities grew. I know he was open to the good Lord's guidance, but he wanted to make sure that we on the Board were doing our utmost to anticipate problems, and to make realistic provisions for the unexpected. Herair was the self-appointed guardian angel of Haigazian, with decades of self-sacrificing devotion to the College's welfare. Recently, while I was



asking older colleagues about Herair's early years on the Board of Trustees, I heard about his insistence to hold constant meetings at his Beirut office, to ensure that no stone was left unturned in those difficult days of the Lebanese civil war, to make sure that options for dealing with the unexpected had been mobilized.

Viewing those truly trying times for the College, from the vintage point of today's seemingly insurmountable obstacles, we owe a great debt of gratitude to Herair, for his four decades of leadership, in navigating the College, then the University, through so many storms, with such foresight and tireless dedication.

Herair, you set a great example to emulate!

Barkev Kassarjian



National Assembly of Turkey Member MP Garo Paylan Speaks at Haigazian University

By **Mira Yardemian**, HU Public Relations Director

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, MP Garo Paylan, a member of the National Assembly of Turkey – for the Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP), visited Haigazian University where he addressed the University and wider community. Mr. Paylan was invited to Beirut by the Nor Serount Cultural Association for the Lebanon premiere of the documentary “RED” (*Refusal in Turkish*) by the Turkish film Producer and Director Kadir Akin.

After a campus tour with University President Rev. Dr. Paul Haidostian and a meeting with representatives of the Lebanese-Armenian written press held in the University’s boardroom, Mr. Paylan proceeded to the hall of the First Armenian Evangelical Church, which is adjacent to the University. Hundreds of people were fervently waiting for him to deliver his lecture on “The Current Situation in Turkey and the Armenian Community.”

In his greeting, Dr. Antranig Dakessian, Director of the Armenian Diaspora Research Center at Haigazian University, noted that among the very minor number of Armenians who are professionally involved in politics, “Mr. Paylan is an outstanding personality. His statements and acts have already introduced him to the world community since he was elected an MP from the HDP from the Istanbul constituency to the Turkish Parliament in 2015.”

In his address, Mr. Paylan spoke about the current political conditions in Turkey and expressed his serious concern about the violations of human and minority rights. He also addressed the topics of freedom of expression, and the suppression of democratic rights giving the example of the 5,000 political activists still detained in Turkish prisons. Mr. Paylan discussed past Turkish-Armenian relations from the times of Sultan Abdul Hamid, the Committee of Union and Progress up to the Armenian Genocide and analyzed that the geopolitics of the Ottoman Empire was a basic reason why the European powers of the time rivalled in having the Empire on their side at the expense of the minority



MP Garo Paylan greets Haigazian University students.

and human rights in the country. He noted that Turkish President Tayip Erdogan is making excellent use of this opportunity and expressed concern that Turkish democracy, minorities, freedoms, justice and human rights are seriously menaced by the policies adopted by President Erdogan. Mr. Paylan concluded his speech with an interactive and informative Q&A session.

President Haidostian concluded the evening by stating that “Mr. Paylan symbolizes more than the weight of the past hundred years of history, geography, martyrdom, survival and justice,” and that “he has become the voice of the conscience and many Armenians find in him the voice of their silenced cause.” Rev. Dr. Haidostian noted that Mr. Paylan had been an educator and that his current ‘classroom’ is far from being a usual one, and that his ‘textbook’ goes much deeper than regular textbooks. □

Meridian School Welcomes “DUKHOV” Arayik Harutyunyan, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia

By Louisa Janbazian

During a recent trip to Southern California Arayik Harutyunyan, Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Armenia, visited C & E Meridian Armenian Evangelical School in Sherman Oaks, CA on Wednesday, January 16. Mr. Harutyunyan was accompanied by John Shirajian, President of Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA), Jirayr Abrahamyan, President of the Alumni Association of the Polytechnic Institute of Armenia, and Dr. Vardan Gevorkyan.

The students greeted Mr. Harutyunyan in the School’s Aram and Anahis D. Boolghoorjian Hall singing the song “Dukhov.” After Principal Lina Arslanian’s welcoming words and Armenian language teacher Aline Shirajian’s introduction about the School’s background, Rev. Serop Megerditchian, Meridian Board member and Pastor of the Armenian Cilicia Evangelical Church of Pasadena, greeted the Minister and the guests. He spoke about the significance of the educational work and the mission of the Armenian Evangelicals world-wide – in the Diaspora and in Armenia, highlighting the Armenian Missionary Association of America’s (AMAA) Khoren and Shooshanig Avedisian School in Yerevan.

Minister Harutyunyan addressed the students and answered questions directed to him by some of the students regarding the education and the school system in Armenia, and concluded his remarks emphasizing the importance of the Armenian schools in the Diaspora. The students presented a few patriotic songs dedicated to Yerevan, which were greatly appreciated by the Minister. The program ended with a prayer by Rev. Megerditchian and a reception followed in the faculty lounge, where Faculty and Board members continued their conversations with the guests in an intimate atmosphere.

Established in 1982 by the AMAA, Armenian Evangelical Union of North America and local Armenian Evangelical Churches,



Rev. Serop Megerditchian escorts Arayik Harutyunyan, RA Minister of Education and Science.



Minister Arayik Harutyunyan addresses the students.



Meridian is the only Armenian Evangelical School in the United States supported by the AMAA. The School offers a broad-based curriculum that fosters academic excellence, high moral values, and spiritual enrichment in the Armenian Evangelical tradition. The School strives to create a safe and nurturing environment where every student receives personal attention to become a successful and responsible individual. For more information you may contact Principal Lina Arslanian at 818.907.8149. □

AMAA Shares the Joy of Christmas in Armenia and Artsakh

On January 9 and 10, the AMAA-Armenia and Evangelical Church of Armenia (ECA) jointly presented their Annual Christmas Programs at AMAA's Yerevan Center at 18 Baghramyan Street. The Program was held in seven sessions and featured the AMAA-Armenia's and ECA's Hayasa Theatrical group presenting the play "Road to Home" to a capacity audience. Approximately 2,300 children and their parents attended these programs.

Written and directed by Playwright/Director Nune Abrahamyan, the Play's message to the audience was that if they are filled with love for people around them, think of others, help the neglected, and believe in the sacred miracle, they will find the way to the heavenly home. "Do your best for all." "Do not give up when you have the gift to help the needy." "Give children a Miracle." Such messages and slogans echoed throughout the Center. "Letters of dreams" were hung on the Wishing Tree which was displayed on the stage. The characters of Charles Dickens and Queen Victoria became more influential and credible in the Play by younger and older actors, reinforcing the power of faith in our lives.

The AMAA-Armenia and ECA jointly held 72 other such Christmas programs in more than 45 towns and villages throughout Armenia and Artsakh, with a visit from Santa Claus and distribution of Christmas Joy packages.

Over 10,000 children received not only Christmas Joy Packages and visits from Santa but also hope that there is much kindness in the world today. We thank all our donors who supported our children in Armenia and Artsakh by donating to our Christmas Joy Program this year. □



AMAA's Yerevan Shogh Day Center Dance Group Performs at Vazgen Sargsyan Military University



On the occasion of the 27th Anniversary of the establishment of the Armenian Army, the Folk Dance group of AMAA's Yerevan "Shogh" Day Center performed in a special concert at the Vazgen Sargsyan Military University.

About 200 military students enjoyed a dazzling performance, many of whom joined the dance group. Our special thanks to Choreographer Harut Baghdasaryan for his dedicated work with our children at "Shogh" Day Center and for the excellent results. □

AMAA Representatives Meet with Artsakh Republic State Minister Grigory Martirosyan



On January 24, Artsakh Republic Minister of State Grigory Martirosyan received AMAA-Armenia Representative Harout Nersessian, AMAA Benefactor Bryan Bedrosian, and AMAA-Artsakh Branch Representative Victor Karapetyan.

Mr. Martirosyan values the AMAA's work in Artsakh and expressed hope that the AMAA's continuity will contribute to the upbringing and education of the younger generation. "I would like to highlight the role of the AMAA Camps in the daily lives of our children," stated the Minister.

Mr. Nersessian thanked State Minister Martirosyan for his warm welcome and presented in detail over a dozen AMAA activities in Artsakh, highlighting in particular the role of the "Shogh" Day Centers.

At the conclusion of the meeting all present shared their views on further cooperation in the future. □

A Success Story

Armine Avanesyan of the AMAA Child Sponsorship Program in Armenia, comes from a large family. Her father is a first degree disabled veteran of the Artsakh war.

Armine is the only girl training in a professional "ArmFighting" Club. She has participated in several tournaments and due to her diligent and persistent character has won first place prizes both in Armenia and Artsakh.

Besides sports, Armine also pursues music. She attends a Music School for piano instructions. Combining sports and music, Armine is working hard to be more diligent in achieving the best results.

The AMAA wishes Armine an unshakable will and courage. May accomplishments and victories always accompany her. □



Consortium Joint Project Enters New Stage in Tavush Region, Armenia



On January 21, the second Consortium meeting in 2019 was held at the "Shen" Benevolent NGO with 11 organizations participating. This year the organizations chose the Navur Village of Tavush Region of the Republic of Armenia to implement their projects. The Mayor of Berd, the Mayor of the Navur Community and members of the Village's Initiative Group were also present at the meeting.

AMAA-Armenia Representative Harout Nersessian introduced the participants and welcomed them to this important meeting. The Mayor of Berd Harutune Manucharyan welcomed this initiative and appreciated the willingness of these organizations to cooperate and invest in their community.

The Mayor of Navur Community Aram Nikolyan and the members of the Village's Initiative Group presented the needs and specifications of their community. The Consortium also decided to visit the Kirants Community on January 23 to identify the needs of that village and to create opportunities to support them. "We will be the 12th Consortium member along with the 11 organizations that will support the Navur community," said Berd Mayor Manucharyan.

The members of the Consortium are AMAA Armenia, "Shen" Benevolent NGO, Children of Armenia Fund (COAF), "Development Principles", Armenian Relief Fund, World Vision Armenia, "Teach for Armenia", World Council of Churches - Armenia Round Table Foundation, Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Armenian Caritas and the Diaconia Charitable Fund. □

AMAA's Two Artsakh KGs Renovated and Furnished

Funded by the Armenian Missionary Association of Australia, the AMAA's Hagop and Lydia Baghdikian Kindergarten in Stepanakert and Rev. Dr. Movses Janbazian Kindergarten in Martakert were renovated and furnished in late 2018.

The one-story Janbazian KG in Martakert is designed to accommodate 70 children. It now has an adequate heating system, new windows and doors, and bathrooms. Interior and exterior projects have also been implemented. The Kindergarten also has new furniture which helps provide up to date educational conditions for the children of Martakert.

The Baghdikian KG in Stepanakert is a two-story building which houses 120 children. The fences were renovated, the grounds were asphalted, and some renovation work was done inside the KG building.



Janbazian KG in Martakert.



Baghdikian KG Playground.

The AMAA Artsakh Kindergartens distinguish themselves from other programs by the tender loving care that the children receive. Driven by the love of Christ, the staff and teachers of the AMAA KG's love and provide caring attention to the needs of each and every child.

The AMAA ensures that all its Kindergartens provide the best education possible. Teachers are provided with training, supervision and materials to help them effectively teach and educate.

Representatives of AMA-Australia plan to visit both KGs in May 2019. □

AMAA's Askeran Kindergarten Renamed Yeprem and Zabel Basmadjian KG

On October 2, 2018 at the AMAA's Askeran KG of Artsakh Republic, a special ceremony was held to rename the Kindergarten after Yeprem and Zabel Basmadjian. The event was attended by AMAA-Armenia Representative Harout Nercessian, Head of Askeran Regional Administration Gegham Beglaryan, Head of Education Department of Askeran Regional Administration Karlen Mayilyan, Benefactor Hagop Basmadjian and parents of the students.

Kindergarten Director Anahit Danielyan welcomed the guests, followed by words of appreciation and gratitude from Mr. Nercessian, Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church in Artsakh Vardan Apinyan, Mr. Basmadjian and Mr. Mayilyan.

The students from Basmadjian KG and the "Shogh" Day Center and Art School presented a short program of recitations, Armenian music and dances for the guests once again proving that the future of our centuries-old country is in their hands.

The AMAA thanks Benefactor Hagop Basmadjian for his generous donation to the Askeran KG. □



Hagop Basmadjian visiting Askeran KG.



Stitched with Love

Celebrates Six Years of Helping Newborns and Children

"Stitched with Love" is thrilled to begin its 6th year of sending knit and crocheted blankets, hats, scarves and gloves to newborn and young children in Armenia. Last month alone we sent over 500 handmade items to different regions that were in need. Yerevan, Republic of Artsakh, Gyumri, Vanadzor, Stepanavan, Goris, Sisian and Vardemnis are some of the areas that were recipients of your generous gifts.

The response from the families has been overwhelmingly grateful. You can see it on their faces...they say it all. Our handmade work has touched their small bodies and their hearts. Let's keep letting them know that we care.

I personally want to thank all the contributors and hope that you will continue supporting this mission of love. We welcome anyone else who would like to join the community of knitters to please do so.

Please contact the AMAA office if you have any questions at 201-265-2607 and feel free to mail your handmade items to:

Armenian Missionary Association of America
31 West Century Road
Paramus, NJ 07652
Attention: "Stitched with Love"

Please put your name and address in with your items so that the AMAA office can identify your gift.

Betty Cherkezian



Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo is Rededicated after Major Renovations

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty! My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Psalm 84:1-2

After the completion of major restoration work, a Rededication Service of the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo was held on Sunday, December 2, 2018, under the auspices of the leadership of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East. Present were hundreds of worshippers, along with high ranking religious, community and official leaders, in an atmosphere of awe and thanksgiving to God. On this occasion, the Church and community expressed their appreciation to many local and global donors and supporters for their moral and financial input, and for the highly valued leadership during this time of the President of the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria, Rev. Haroutune Selimian. During the Service, a congratulatory letter from Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director/CEO of the AMAA, was read.

The Church was heavily damaged following a missile strike on January 17, 2016, and its restoration two years later is a hopeful sign for the Armenian community in Aleppo as well as for the country. □



Celebratory Worship Service in Aleppo Marks AMAA's 100th Anniversary

The Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria held a special Worship Service of Thanksgiving to commemorate the Centennial of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA). The Service was held on Sunday, December 23, 2018 at the newly renovated Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo, Syria.

Present were representatives and clergy from the Armenian Orthodox, Catholic and Evangelical churches, representatives of philanthropic organizations, Armenian cultural and educational institutions, along with many Armenian Evangelical parishioners and guests.

Rev. Haroutune Selimian, President of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, delivered the message with the theme of "Preaching the Good News to All Creation." On behalf of the Armenian Evangelical Community in Syria, he extended his heartfelt congratulations to the AMAA on this glorious occasion of its Centennial. He said, "Today, we celebrate the AMAA's legacy that continues to inspire us with unbounded optimism in its continued impact in shaping and improving the lives of countless people, both young and old,



in 24 countries around the world including our Homeland, Armenia. As the Armenian Evangelical Community of Syria, we cannot forget AMAA's encouragement and support to our community during the seven years of war and throughout the years." □

A Worship of Thanksgiving Celebrates Rev. Kilaghbian's Retirement from Pastoral Ministry

As you hold firmly to the word of life; and then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

Philippians 2:16

Unshakable faith, dedication, humility, a solid character and service are hard to find in one person. However, these words best describe the life and pastoral journey of Rev. Soghomon Kilaghbian as he retires after more than 42 years of self-sacrificing pastoral service and faithfulness to the Lord's Word.

Born in Kessab Syria, Rev. Kilaghbian graduated from Haigazian University with a BA degree in History and from the Near East School of Theology with a M.Div. degree. Upon graduation from the Seminary, he started his ministry in Kessab, serving the local Armenian Evangelical Church for three years. He was ordained in 1984 and continued his pastoral service at the Armenian Evangelical Emmanuel Church of Aleppo for 18 years. In 1996, he and his family moved to Beirut, Lebanon and continued his pastoral ministry, along with his dedicated wife, Yester, at the Armenian Evangelical Church of Ashrafieh.

At the conclusion of his 42 years of pastoral ministry, a Worship of Thanksgiving was held on Sunday, January 13, under the auspices of the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches and organized by the Council of the Ashrafieh Church.



L to R: Garbis Deyirmenjian, John Sagherian, Rev. & Mrs. Soghomon and Yester Kilaghbian, Rev. Megrditch Karagoezian and Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D.

The AMAA extends our heartfelt congratulations to Rev. Kilaghbian for his many years of service and prays for God's continued blessings in his life's journey. □

Save the Date

Boston Area Orphan and Child Care Committee Celebrates Changing Children's Lives - 30 Years and Counting

By **Dianne Chilingirian**

The Boston Area Orphan and Child Care Committee of the Armenian Missionary Association of America will celebrate "Changing Children's Lives 30 Years and Counting" on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the Wellesley Country Club, Wellesley, MA.

This year's event will honor longtime advocate for Armenian causes and organizations, and Co-founder of the AMAA's Orphan and Child Care Committee, Michele Simourian.

The evening will feature a cocktail reception, walk-and-talk buffet style dinner with open serve food stations and drinks bars, as well as silent and live auctions, surprise guest auctioneer, wine pull, and prizes to include international travel tickets, exotic hotel stays, sought-after sports and theater tickets, outstanding dining opportunities, and much more. To join the Committee, donate, or purchase an ad in the program book, kindly contact Dianne Chilingirian at 617-965-8009.



JAMES G. JAMESON ESSAY CONTEST

OPEN TO HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS

The James G. Jameson Essay Contest, sponsored by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), runs every academic year starting in October, and is financed from the income of a special fund established by Mr. and Mrs. James G. Jameson of Brookline, MA.

All Armenian and part-Armenian students attending schools in North America are eligible. Only unpublished essays are accepted, which are written in English and have a length of 1,000 to 2,000 words.

The topics of the Contest are required to touch upon some aspect of Armenian heritage and experience, such as religion, history, culture, literature, language, art, architecture, geography, and economics.

Essays are judged on the basis of merit in such criteria as content, style, logic and reasoning, coherence, and usage.

Awards for the Contest are made in two categories: College/University contestants, and High School contestants.

The deadline for entries is May 1, 2019.

Entries and/or inquiries should be directed to: James G. Jameson Essay Contest, c/o of The Armenian Missionary Association of America, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652 or e-mail sponsorship@amaa.org.

Meet Our Staff at AMAA

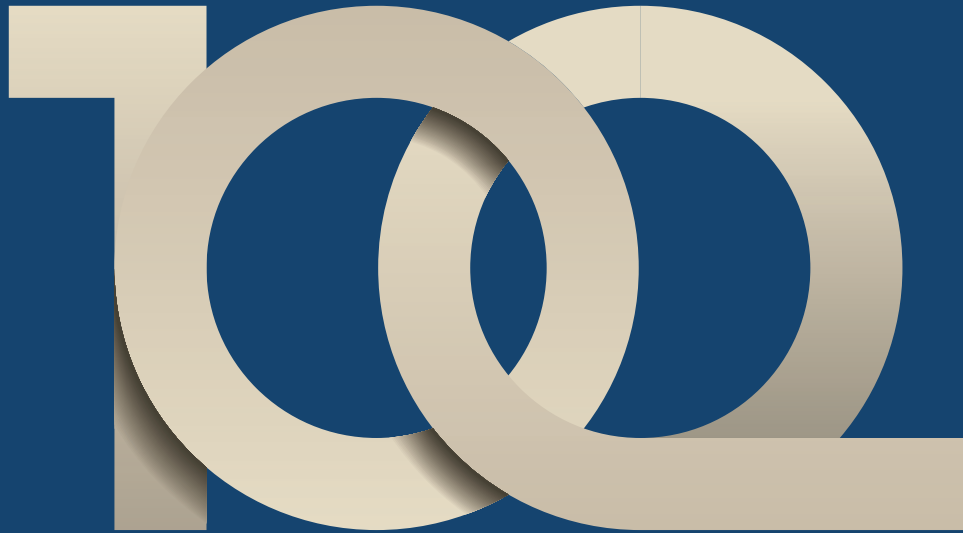
Marilyn Monasterio, AMAA Database Coordinator

Marilyn Monasterio joined the AMAA as the Database Coordinator in August 2018. Her primary responsibilities are data entry and maintenance of the Donor Database. Prior to joining the AMAA, she worked as a Product Analyst and Quality Assurance Specialist for various companies. Marilyn's grandparents came from Syria to the United States in the early 1900s and she was drawn to the AMAA by our mission to serve those who have suffered persecution.

A most rewarding position Marilyn held in the past was the year she spent in Guatemala volunteering with an organization that ministers to the people living in the poor areas of Guatemala City. During that year, she worked closely with the organization's fund raisers and the development team to insure the system met the organization's requirements and produced the needed reports.

Marilyn holds a BA in Philosophy from Holy Cross College and a Certificate in Programming from The Chubb Institute. When not at the AMAA, she spends her time volunteering with Buddy Break, a ministry serving the special needs of the community, and leading mission trips to Guatemala. Her favorite scripture is Isaiah 55:8-9, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."





A LEGACY OF FAITH, LOVE & SERVICE

Every gift, no matter how large or small, has a direct impact on A.M.A.A. projects and programs.

This listing reflects all outright contributions and pledges received as part of the A.M.A.A. Centennial Campaign, beginning with the October 8, 2016 Kick-off Celebration in Los Angeles. A total of \$12.1 million has been committed, from 820 donors, as of January 31, 2019. We are very encouraged and blessed by the generosity and faithfulness of our members' support. We will continue to raise funds and awareness toward our Centennial Campaign efforts, through 2019, as we enter the next 100 years of service to our Lord, our people and humanity, touching lives the world over.

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Sixty Years in the Lord's Vineyard

By Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian

By Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian, AEUNA Moderator

Consistently, and through his 42nd book *"Sixty Years in the Lord's Vineyard,"* Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian touches our minds and souls as he celebrates 60 years of calling, commitment, and ministerial service.

Those who are familiar with the fruitful life and activity of Rev. Tootikian, whether on the pulpit, at his writing desk, in the classroom, on ecclesiastical and interdenominational committees, or on the leadership positions, will understand what it means to stop for a moment and have a retrospective look into the past six decades and discern the paths he has walked and the lives and minds he has touched, communities of faith he nourished, and the calling he has been faithful to. Rev. Tootikian's writing and communication skills turn this 'moment' into a composition where he shares with his audience deep reflections from a minister's heart and experience.

The book comes in two parts: English and Armenian. In each part, the author takes the reader into a journey through the ecclesiastical year, and underlines what a minister would have said to reflect on the seasons that churches and communities of faith go through. The topics of his meditations reflect the essentials that individuals and communities of faith are called to cultivate in their spiritual lives, such as the importance of knowing Christ, spiritual growth, spiritual balance, prayer, giving, witnessing, and serving. On a similar note, Rev. Tootikian's topics articulate the areas that any committed servant of the Word and the Sacraments would have put his focus and energy into for sixty years, whether by teaching, by guiding or by discipleship.

Rev. Tootikian humbly sees himself as an anointed instrument to partake the ultimate Vinedresser, Christ's ministry on earth, which primarily involves strengthening the weak branches, pruning

the healthy ones, loving the vine, and ultimately delighting in the abundance of the fruits.

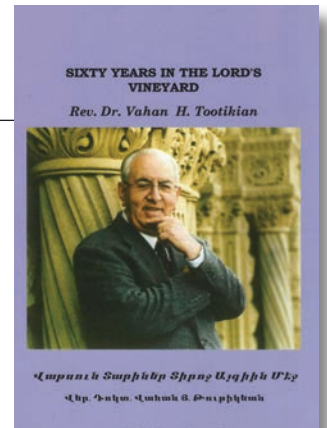
Also, and on par with, the author underlines the fact that his ministry of taking care of God's vine was proudly realized in the context of his Armenian identity and the Armenian culture. For this reason, he stresses the importance of all the

Armenian cultural and historical milestones as being elements of our collective identity formation and means of ethnic perpetuation.

Rev. Tootikian pens his thoughts in the format of short essays with an easy to read flow of thoughts. His quotes from notable philosophers, theologians and educators add to the richness of his meditations. The book also contains testimonies of those who have enjoyed his earlier publications and wrote reviews, which come to serve as live affirmations to his six decades of legacy in the Armenian spiritual, cultural, devotional and theological literature.

That is why people of all ethnic, cultural, educational and experiential backgrounds will be attracted to the pages of this book, including pastors, lay leaders and members of congregations, because they will see in the *"Sixty Years in the Lord's Vineyard"* their concerns addressed, their questions discussed, and their voices echoed.

Some sixty years ago, the Lord called a young teenager from Ekizoluk of Kessab for ministry. Though he developed some skill in the actual vine dressing, through the power, the blessing and the Grace of the Lord, Rev. Tootikian has ardently become a 'spiritual vinedresser' in God's Vineyard.



WORDS OF WISDOM

By George R. Phillips, Sr., Esq

What about fate of a rich man;
The rich man has slim odds to find Christ,
Apparent cost seen as an enormous heist.

Those possessions are mine; pride interjects,
I brought about those lucrative prospects.

Such a soul seems in an impossible state,
Can't pass through the needle eye, your fate.

The Lord wants you to see, life is not about you,
It's needed that you trust His still voice heard by few.

You must vest your all solely in Him,
It's no longer on a rotting limb.

Faith includes all the excess baggage you bring along,
Freed to be motivated only for others to also belong

He reveals the eternal truths now eminently clear,
Impossible made possible now nothing to fear.

Learn that all things are possible if you serve the Lord,
Priceless gifts, joy, peace, purpose. By grace restored.



ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՎԱՐՉԱՊԵՏ
PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

Ամերիկայի Հայ Ավետարանչական ընկերակցության
գործադիր տնօրեն
պարոն Զավեն ԽԱՆՋՅԱՆԻՆ

Հարգարժան պարոն Զավեն Խանջյան,

Ամերիկայի Հայ Ավետարանչական ընկերակցության՝ հայ ժողովրդի հանդեպ անցած 100 տարիների հավատի և ծառայության վաստակը Աստվածային սիրո իրեղեն վկայություն է և արժանացել է մեր ժողովրդի երախտագիտությանը: Մեծ է հայրենակիցների կրթության, քրիստոնեական դաստիարակության և աշխարհասփյուռ մեր կյանքի կազմակերպման գործում: Վստահ ենք, որ հայրենի իշխանությունների հետ գործակցությամբ, ինչպես անցած 30 տարիներին, այնպես էլ այսուհետ, կիրագործեք բազմաթիվ համատեղ ծրագրեր՝ հանուն մեր ժողովրդի բարեկեցության ու հայրենիքի բարօրության:

Շնորհավորելով Ընկերակցության 100-ամյա հորելյանի առիթով՝ մաղթում եմ ձեզ հետագա բեղմնավոր աշխատանք և նորանոր ձեռքբերումներ ձեր գործունեության բոլոր ասպարեզներում:

Հարգանքով՝

ՊԱՇՏՈՆԱԿՅԱՆ

ՆԻԿՈԼ ՓԱՇԻՆՅԱՆ

100 years of Legacy of Faith, Love and Service of the Armenian Missionary Association of America to the Armenian people, is a true testament to the Divine Love and has been praised by our people. The role of the Association is also great in the preservation of the Armenian identity, the education, the Christian upbringing and cultural life of our compatriots around the world. We are confident that with the cooperation of the Armenian authorities, as in the past 30 years, we will continue to implement many joint programs for the welfare of our people and for the well-being of the Homeland.

Congratulating you on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Association, I wish you further productive work and new achievements in all areas of your activities.

With Respect,
Nikol Pashinyan, Acting Prime Minister

ՍՓԻՒՌԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԳՈՐԾԸՆԹԱՅԸ, ԲԱՅՑ ՆԱԵՒ՝ ՇԱՐՈՒՆԱԿԱԿԱՆՈՒԹԻՒՆԸ

Դոկտ. Հրայր Ճեպեճեան

Հայաստան-սփիւռք յարաբերութիւններու կազմակերպչական օղակը, սկսելով իմ պատանեկան-երիտասարդական տարիներէն, կու գար երկրորդ հանրապետութենէն, որ այդ օրերուն կը կոչուէր Սփիւռքահայութեան հետ մշակութային կապի կոմիտէ: Երրորդ հանրապետութեան հետ ստեղծուեցաւ սփիւռքի նախարարութիւնը. այս իմաստով բաւական ճամբայ կտրած ենք Հայաստան-սփիւռք յարաբերութիւններու գործընթացին մէջ մէկ կողմէ կազմակերպչական կառոյցի եւ ցանցի յատակագիծով, բայց նաեւ՝ յայտագիրներու մշակման եւ զարգացումներու առումով: Հայկական սփիւռքը, ինչ խօսք, ունի իւրայատուկ դրուածք՝ մեկնելով պատմական այն իրողական վիճակէն, թէ մեծ համեմատութեամբ հետեւանք էր Յեղասպանութեան եւ տեղահանումի: Ասիկա հայկական սփիւռքին կու տայ իւրայատուկ կարգավիճակ, բայց նաեւ՝ նոյնքան իւրայատուկ մարտահրաւէր:

Երրորդ հանրապետութենէն ետք Հայաստան-սփիւռք յարաբերութիւնները զգալի եւ շեշտակի կերպով զարգացան ու աճեցան: Հայաստան՝ որպէս անկախ պետականութիւն եւ երկիր, դարձաւ աշխարհասփիւռ հայութեան կիզակէտը: Անցնող աւելի քան քսանեօթը երկար տարիները եղան ուսանելի, բայց նաեւ՝ հայրենիք եւ սփիւռք զիրար հասկնալու, միասին գործելու, երկիրը շէնցնելու եւ զարգացնելու մեծ պատեհութիւն եւ ներդրում: Այսօր Հայաստան-սփիւռք կը գտնուինք այնպիսի կարգավիճակի մը մէջ, երբ զիրար շատ աւելի լաւ հասկցած եւ իրարու հետ շատ աւելի լաւ մէկտեղուած ենք: Այս զարգացումին մէջ սփիւռքի նախարարութիւնը եղաւ շատ կարեւոր կառոյց մը եւ աշխատանքային բնագաւառ, որ կամրջեց աշխարհով մէկ տարածուած հայութիւնը իր տարբեր շերտերով՝ Հայաստանի հետ եւ անպայմանօրէն՝ փոխադարձ յարաբերութեամբ: Ու տակաւին, ան հանդիսացաւ սփիւռքը ինք իրեն հետ եւ իրարու հետ միացնող կռուան:

Հոսկէ մեկնելով՝ կան շարունակականութեան գործընթացը եւ հարցադրումները, որոնք կը շրջագային ներկայ օրերուն: Պէ՛տք է շարունակել սփիւռքի նախարարութիւնը: Եթէ այո՛, ինչպէ՛ս եւ ի՞նչ տարողութեամբ: Եւ եթէ ոչ, բայց ինչո՞ւ:

Ներկայ օրերը ունին իրենց շատ մը մարտահրաւէր-հիմնահարցերը մէկ կողմէ սփիւռքահայ իրականութեան համար, բայց նաեւ՝ հայաստանեան իրավիճակէն մեկնելով եւ երեւի թաւշեայ յեղափոխութենէ ետք աւելի մեծ ակնկալութիւններով: Եթէ հայկական սփիւռքը շատ «գունաւոր» է եւ տարբեր շերտերով, որուն վրայ պիտի աւելցնել Հայաստանէն արտագաղթած հայորդիներ, որոնք սփիւռքեան իրականութեան վրայ աւելցուցին նոր «երանգներ»: Ու հայկական այս մեծ «պարունակին» մէջ կայ այլ երեւոյթ մը, որ մինչեւ այսօր սփիւռքը տակաւին չէ վերածուած, այսպէս ըսած, կազմակերպչական-ընդհանրական կառոյցի մը, որ կրնար ծառայել որպէս համասփիւռքեան համադրողական օղակ: Բայց նաեւ առկայ է, եւ երեւի՝ ներկայ օրերուն մէջ շեշտուած ձեւով, Հայաստան երկրի եւ հայրենի պետականութեան ներշնչած ազգային-քաղաքական ինքնութիւնը՝ սփիւռքահայուն համար եւ ի մասնաւորի՝ երիտասարդ հայուն, որ հասակ կ'առնէ շատ մը գաղութներու մէջ, եւ ուր ան-անոնք կը գտնեն-վերագտնեն իրենց հայկական աւանդը եւ ինքնութեան գիտակցութիւնը՝ հայրենի հողին մէջ եւ անոր միջոցով: Կարկինը աւելի լայն բանալով՝ այսօր շատ աւելիով օրակարգի վրայ է հայրենադարձութիւնը անցեալի ներգաղթի հիմքով, բայց՝ տարբեր տարողութիւններով, ընտրանքներով եւ միջոցառումներով:

Հայկական ընդհանրական այս իրավիճակներուն մէջէն է, որ պիտի տեսնենք անհրաժեշտութիւնը՝ շարունակելու սփիւռքի նախարարութիւնը եւ անոր աշխատանքային գործընթացը՝ գէթ աւելցնելով եւ կամ վերանորոգելով անոր աշխատանքային ռազմավարութիւնը: Եթէ մեր համահայկական եռանկիւնը կը կազմէ Հայաստան-Արցախ-սփիւռք, բայց անհրաժեշտ է, որ նոյն այս եռանկիւնը եւ անոր յարաբերութիւն-աշխատանքային գործընթացը ուժեղացնել: Ասոր մէջ, անկասկած, սփիւռքի նախարարութիւնը ունեցած է եւ պէտք է շարունակէ պահել իր կարեւոր մասնակցութիւնը եւ ինքնուրոյն դրուածքը՝ հայրենի պետական վարչամեքենային մէջ:

ԽՕՍ-Բ ՕՐՃՆԵՐԳԻ ՄԱՍԻՆ

**Փողոցին մեջ եթե երբեք հանդիպիք
Լակոտ մը մերկ, սեւ ու խոշոր աչքերով.
Որ կը շրջի սուլելով «Մեր Հայրենիք»,
Բերեք ինձ զայն, բերեք իմ գիրկըս սիրով:**

Հայր Վահան Յովհաննեսեան
«Բերեք ինձ զայն» 1936



Հայաստանի Հանրապետության Օրհներգը փոխելու նիւթը կրկին սեղանի վրայ է:
Հայաստանի ներկայ իշխանութիւնները քննարկութեան առարկայ դարձուցած են Օրհներգի փոփոխութիւնը
կարծիք հայցելով զանազան աղբիւրներէ:

Ահաւասիկ իմ կարծիքս:

Որեւէ մէկուն անակնկալ պէտք չէ թուի այն իրողութիւնը թէ ընդհանրապէս հայութիւնը յուզող հարցերու
մէջ երբեմն տեսակետի տարբերութիւն եւ զանազանութիւն կայ Սփիւռքահայուն եւ հայրենի հողին վրայ հասակ
առնող մեր արեւակիցներու մէջ: Ահագանգ հնչեցնող երեւոյթ մը պէտք չէ համարել այս, նկատի ունենալով այն բոլոր
մտածողութեան եւ կարծիքներու զանազանութիւնը զոր գոյութիւն ունի թէ Սփիւռքեան իրականութեան մէջ ինքնին
եւ մանաւանդ աւելիով իսկ ՀՀ քաղաքացիներու մտածողութեան եւ տեսակետներու մէջ:

Անխախտ իրողութիւն է թէ հազարամեայ հայրենիք, երդիք եւ ծննդավայր կորսնցնող սփիւռքահայը, յետ
եղեռնեան իր անխարիսխ տագնապին մէջ իր գոյութեան երաշխիքը եւ տոկալու աւիշը գտաւ ազատ եւ անկախ
հայրենիքի մը երազին մէջ: Երազ մը, որուն խորհրդանիշը հանդիսացաւ առաջին հանրապետութեան զինն, դրօշն ու
օրհներգը: Որբացած «լակոտ»ները եւ անոնց յետնեալ սերունդները չդադրեցան շրջիլ սփիւռքեան «օտար ու խորթ»
ափերու վրայ սուլելով եւ երազելով «Մեր Հայրենիք»:

Այսօր՝ երբ հրաշքը կատարուած է եւ մենք որպէս կորսուած Արեւմտահայաստանի ժառանգորդներ, մօտ
28 տարիէ ի վեր կը վայելենք ազատ ու անկախ Հայրենիքի մը կատարելագործուած երազը՝ մեզ հայրենի սրբազան
հողին, փրկուած շերտ մը Հայրենիքին եւ զայն կերտող բոլոր նահատակ մարտիկներու յիշատակին հետ շաղկապող
ոգին խտացուած է այս խորհրդանիշներուն մէջ: Դրօշ, Օրհներգ եւ Զինանշան:

Ինչո՞ւ խախտել այս ոգեկան հիմերը: Ինչո՞ւ կտրել հայրենիքի մը հետ մեզ նոյնացնող այս կապը: Ինչո՞ւ զրկել
սփիւռքահայը, պատմութենէն ծորող եւ զինք սնուցանող աւիշէն:

Գուցէ «Մեր Հայրենիք»ի երաժշտական կշռոյթը գերազանցող հրաշք յօրինողներ ունի մեր հայրենիքը:

Գուցէ մեր մրկաշունչ կամ հայրենապաշտ բանաստեղծները հրաշագործ ստեղծագործութիւններ երկնած
են, զոր կրնայ փոխարինել «արտասուքով լուացուած» դրօշի օրհներգը:

Գուցէ եւ գուցէ:

Բայց մենք ամէն առիթ եւ պատեհութիւն ունինք վայելելու այդ ստեղծագործութիւնները, հպարտանալու
անոնցմով, անգիր եւ բարձրադադակ երգելու կամ ասմունքելու զանոնք: Այդ ամէնը, հայրենիքէն սկսած, մինչեւ
երկրագունդի ամէն մի անկիւն հաւաքուած Հայկի զաւակներու խմբակի մը հազագէն բարձրացող ձայն է երգի, երկի
կամ աղօթքի ամէն օր:

Մեր անցեալէն բխած, մեզ անցեալին հետ շաղկապած եւ մեզ յարատւօրէն անխարիսխ, անհասցէ
եւ անհայրենիք «լակոտ»ի մը հոգեբանութենէն վեր բարձրացնող այս խորհրդանիշ օրհներգը թող շարունակէ
համաշունչ հնչել եւ իր քոյր՝ փողփողող եռագոյն խորհրդանիշին հետ հաւաքել իր որդիքը Արարատի լանջերուն վրայ:

Այս բոլորը կ'ուղղեմ մեր Հայրենի իշխանութիւններուն, եղբայրական ոգիով, յարգելով ոմանց խորթ թուող
այս մտածելակերպը, առանց արհամարհելու փոփոխութեան տուն տուող ոմանց տրամաբանութիւնը եւ հաստատ
գիտնալով՝ թէ մեր բոլորին հայրենասիրութիւնը նժարի վրայ պակաս կշռող պատճառներու փնտռտուքը, կասկածն ու
ամբաստանութիւնը անհեթեթ է, անտեղի եւ աւելորդ:

«Մեր Հայրենիք»ի ամէն մի խազ թող շոյէ մեզ իր որդիասէր շունչով եւ ծնողի մը գուրգուրանքով տուն կանչէ
մեզմէ ամէն մէկը, հայցելով՝

«Բերեք ինձ զայն, բերեք իմ գիրկըս սիրով»:

Յարգանքներով՝
Շաւեն Խանճեան, Գործադիր Տնօրէն
Փետրուար 5, 2019

«ԱՅԱՇԻ ԲԱՆՏԸ»

ՏՈՔԹ. ԱԻԵՏԻՍ ՆԱԳԳԱՇԵԱՆ
ԵՒ ՄԱՀԱՊԱՐՏ ԱՔՍՈՐԵԱԼՆԵՐԸ
Հրատարակիչ՝ Երուանդ Հ. Քասունի

Բոլորս գիտենք թե ի՛նչ պատահեցաւ 24 Ապրիլ 1915-ին՝ Կ. Պոլսոյ մէջ: Սակայն քիչեր տեղեակ են ձերբակալուողներուն ապրումներուն, երբ ոստիկանատուն կանչուեցան, տարագրուեցան, բանտարկուեցան, մոյնիսկ կարգ մը բախտաւորներ ազատ արձակուեցան: Իր նորագոյն վերահրատարակութեան մէջ՝ որ 2018-ի վախճանին լոյս տեսաւ, Փրոֆ. Դոկտ. Երուանդ Հ. Քասունի այս վերջիններէն մէկուն վկայութիւնը կը հրամցնէ՝ «Այաշի Բանտը» խորագրով, միաժամանակ լայն տեղեկութիւն տալով հեղինակին՝ Տոքթ. Աւետիս Նագգաշեանի անձին ու գրական վաստակին մասին:

Փոխան Ներածականի, ընթերցողին կը բացատրուին 1894-էն մինչեւ 1923 տեւող հայոց շարունակական ջարդերուն եւ ցեղասպանութեան ծրագրին մուրձալիքը, Եւրոպական երկիրներուն հետապնդած ստորին նպատակներն ու Մեծն Բրիտանիոյ խաղցած դժնդակ դերը՝ իր կայսերական շահերը պաշտպանելու համար: Արդէն անոր կարկառուն փաղափարներէն մին առանց խպնելու խոստովանած է. «Անգլիան բարեկամ չունի, հապա միայն շահեր»...:

Տոքթ. Աւետիս Նագգաշեանի յարաբերաբար կարճ վկայագրութիւնը մէկ շունչով կը կարդացուի: Առաջին գլուխը կը յայտնէ թէ որո՞նք *ձերբակալուեցան* եւ ինչպե՛ս տարուեցան ոստիկանատուն: Յաջորդը կը նկարագրէ իրենց *նամբորդութիւնը* դէպի բանտ (նաւ, երկաթուղի, կառք): Երրորդը կը պատմէ *բանտի կեանքը*, ուր երբեմն գուարնութիւններ տեղի կ'ունենային: Նոյնիսկ ներքին *կազմակերպութիւն* մը յղացուած էր՝ խաղաղ մթնոլորտ մը ապահովելու համար, ոմանց պաշտօններ վստահելով: *Տագնապի օրեր* ալ ապրեցան բանտարկեալները, երբ իրարու հտնէ անձեր դատուելու (եւ ապա՝ սպաննուելու) համար կը դրկուէին Կեսարիա, Պոլիս, Խարբերդ կամ Տիգրանակերտ: Իսկ վերջին գլուխին մէջ հեղինակը կը պատմէ իր *ազատումի* պարագաները: Ուրախ էր, որովհետեւ գիտէր թէ «ամէն մի վայրկեան գիմք դէպի կախաղան կը տանէր» եթէ բանտ մնար. բայց միաժամանակ տխուր՝ որ «հոն պիտի ձգէր ա՛յնչափ բարեկամներ... տառապանքի ընկերներ»:

Եզրակացնելով՝ Տոքթ. Աւետիս Նագգաշեան 1925-ին կը գրէ. «Ո՛չ, ի գուր տեղը չեն կրնար ըլլալ այսֆան գոհեր մեծ գաղափարի մը համար: Նահատակներուն հոգիները կը սաւառնին ազգին բոլոր գաւակներուն վրայ: Անոնց ներշնչումը, ոգեւորութիւնը ամէն հայու սրտի մէջ պիտի ապրի, եթէ մինչեւ իսկ մէկ հատիկ հայ մնայ այս ապերախտ աշխարհիս վրայ»:

Հեղինակին գրքոյկին մէջ յիշուած անձերուն, վայրերուն եւ դէպքերուն անձանօթ ԻԱ. դարու ընթերցողին համար՝ հրատարակիչը վեց անգամ աւելի ընդարձակ էջերու մէջ ամփոփած է 93 ծանօթագրութիւններ: Հատորը ամբողջացուած է Տոքթ. Աւետիս Նագգաշեանի կեանքին, մտաւորական ժառանգութեան եւ հրապարակագրութեան նուիրուած յաւելեալ 85 էջերով, որոնց ընդհանուր թիւը կը հասնի 400-ի:

Իր ազգին կրած Ցեղասպանութեան բաժնին ծալքերուն մասին տեղեկութեան կարօտ իւրաքանչիւր հայորդիի կը յանձնարարենք Փրոֆ. Դոկտ. Երուանդ Հ. Քասունիի առանձին հատորներով հրատարակած սոյն 19-րդ աշխատասիրութիւնը: Ստանալու համար՝ դիմել հեղինակին... Yervant H. Kassouny, c/o U.A.E.C.N.E., P. O. Box 11-0377, Riad El Solh, Beirut 1107-2040, Lebanon - yhkassouny@hotmail.com:



Humanity Has Lost One of Its Brightest Children

Dr. Mihran S. Agbabian

Former AMAA Vice President and Board Member Joins the Lord



"Dr. Mihran Agbabian's Christian upbringing at home and at the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church of Aleppo, where his father, Rev. Siragan Agbabian served, have forged the character of a man who despite climbing the highest ladders of success, demonstrated down-to-earth humility and modesty.

Dr. Agbabian, the scientist, educator, philanthropist, community leader, entrepreneur, devoted his life to the advancement and development of fellow human beings. His humanitarian contributions both at Home and the Homeland will brightly echo in the lives of the multitude for generations to come. As we mourn his passing on Earth, I can imagine the joy in heaven, as the Lord welcomes His son who "fought the good fight, finished the race and kept the faith." - Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO

Editor's Note: The next issue of the AMAA News will be dedicated to the memory of Dr. Mihran Agbabian.

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on... they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them. Revelation 14:13

It is with deep sorrow that we share with you the sad news of the passing of Dr. Mihran Agbabian, a former AMAA Vice President, Board member and life-long supporter, and father of current Board member, Bryan Agbabian, on Tuesday, February 12.

Mihran was born in Cyprus. The family moved to Aleppo, Syria, where his father, Rev. Siragan Agbabian, served as Pastor of the Emmanuel Armenian Evangelical Church. Mihran attended the American University of Beirut and after graduating with a B.A. in Physics (1944) and a B.S. in Engineering (1947), he came to the United States and attended California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena where he received a Master's degree in Engineering (1948) and later attended UC Berkeley where he received a Ph.D. in Engineering (1951). He had his consulting engineering firm, Agbabian Associates, for 20 years before he joined the faculty of USC as Chairman of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department until his retirement.

In his Armenian community service, he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Armenian Assembly of America during its formative years, member of the Central Board of AGBU, and Board member of the AMAA. Dr. Agbabian was honored as one of the Pillars of the Community at the November 15, 2014 joint AMAA and Haigazian University Banquet.

In his professional service, he was an Honorary Member and was President of the Earthquake Engineering Research Institute, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Dr. Agbabian was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering (1982) and the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (1990). Among the honors he received are the University of California at Berkeley Distinguished Engineering Alumnus Citation in 1987, the California Institute of Technology Award of Distinguished Alumnus in 2000, and Honorary Doctor's degrees



Dr. Mihran & Mrs. Elizabeth Agbabian.

from Yerevan State University in 1994, the State Engineering University of Armenia in 2003 and Haigazian University in Lebanon in 1980.

In 1995 he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor. He received the Sahag-Mesrob Medal from His Holiness Karekin I, Catholicos of All Armenians, the Saint Mesrob Medal from His Holiness Aram I, Catholicos of the See of Cilicia, and the Saint Vartan Medal from His Holiness John Peter XVIII, Catholicos of the Armenian Catholic Church. In 2001 he received the Movses Khorenatsi Medal from the President of the Republic of Armenia for his contributions to educational development.

Dr. Agbabian was married to Elizabeth Apkarian and are parents of three sons and grandparents of four grandchildren. □



Remembering Dr. Henry Hadidian

By Levon Filian

Dr. Henry Hadidian was a deeply religious and passionate gentleman. He loved his Lord, his family, his church and the Armenian people.

My first visit with Dr. Henry Hadidian was on a cold winter day in February 2013. The late AMAA Board member Fred Simonian and I drove on icy roads from Chicago to Munster, Indiana to visit Dr. Henry Hadidian and later Dr. Henry Geragos and their families. We were welcomed by their warm Armenian hospitality.

We opened the American University of Beirut (AUB) yearbooks and reflected on the yesteryears when several Armenian students from poor socioeconomic backgrounds had excelled in academics and came to study medicine at AUB under the leadership of Dr. Stanley Kerr, the chairman of the Biochemistry Department, a missionary to Marash and the author of *The Lions of Marash* novel. Among the students were Henry Hadidian, Henry Geragos, Raffy Hovanessian, Hratch Doumanian, Ara Doumanian, Berj Gueyikian, Ara Yeretsian and others. From humble beginnings, these gentlemen had achieved great success and became colleagues in a reputable American Hospital. They kept their friendship and remembered their rich Armenian Christian Heritage.

In subsequent years, I had the privilege and honor to meet Henry's older brother John and younger sister Laura and their families in Princeton, New Jersey.

On August 19, 2015, Henry and I drove from Chicago to Detroit to visit the Lebanese Consulate to legally gift/donate four properties they owned in Anjar to the AMAA and the Armenian Evangelical School in Anjar. We also had the opportunity to visit and dine with his long-time high school friend Rev. Dr. Vahan H. Tootikian and his wife.

Henry recalled the challenging days they lived in Lebanon. They lived with the Keledjian family in a compound where several families shared a common bathroom. His father rode his bike to Anjar to preach and teach. Yet his mother, Gaida, always managed to have food on the table and invite orphan and poor school children to break bread with them.

Gaida's big heart and generosity was passed on to the children. Laura is known in the Princeton Armenian circles as the generous and gourmet Armenian cook of the century.

We became close friends, called each other very often and had the opportunity to visit each other on the East Coast, in the Midwest and on the West Coast when he visited his cousin Steve Merjanian.

Henry, thank you for bringing a ray of sunlight in my life. Your father married my parents and baptized me, you became my Barnabas.



Seated: Laura and Dr. Avedis Khachadurian. Standing L to R: Shoghag and Dr. Raffy Hovanessian, Levon Filian, Dr. Henry Hadidian and Cythia Hadidian.



In Remembrance Isabelle (Belle) Ashodian

By Phyllis Hamo

Surrounded by loving family members in her Santa Monica, CA home, Isabelle (Belle) Ashodian, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and devoted Christian, went to be with the Lord, at age 97, after a long, productive, and charitable life.

Belle was remembered on February 1, 2019 during her memorial service at the Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles. This was followed by a graveside ceremony at Santa Monica's Woodlawn Cemetery. Services were conducted by Rev. Dr. Ron Tovmassian, Senior Pastor of UACC, United Armenian Congregational Church. Rev. Tovmassian stressed "the importance of Belle's faith in God," which had guided her during her life. Among those who paid loving tribute during the service were her daughters, Deborah Moore and Beth Arseneau, grandson Robert Moore, granddaughter Kelly Moore-Mosely, grandson Patrick Moore (as read by David Emerson), and granddaughter Bethany Arseneau.

Belle's parents were Oscar and Tamam Deradoorian, immigrants and Armenian Genocide survivors. She was the eldest of three sisters, Ann Demirjian (now deceased), Dhera Dorian, and herself, Belle Ashodian, born July 5, 1921 in Rhode Island. A fourth sibling, their brother, was lost during the Armenian Genocide.

Belle grew up working in her father's East Coast grocery store where she learned basic business skills. At the age of twelve she convinced her father that he should purchase an apartment building. This became the starting point for her interest in real estate. In 1943 Belle married Edward Ashodian in Rhode Island and they moved to California where they raised their five children and where Belle opened her own company, "Belle Realty."

Her deep faith and love for her Armenian heritage played important roles in Belle's life. She served as a deacon at Bel Air Presbyterian Church, and regularly hosted Bible studies in her Santa Monica home "to serve the Lord." Her favorite guiding verse was Philippians 4:13, "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" She generously contributed to Armenian orphanages and villages, sponsored scores of needy children and families, and was honored numerous times by the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) in recognition of her generosity to Armenian causes.

Belle is survived by her loving children, Rick Ashodian, Kathleen Ashodian, Debbie Moore, and Beth Arseneau, her grandchildren Stephen Ashodian, Joy Ashodian, Robert Moore, Kelly Moore-Moseley, Patrick Moore, Peter Moore, and Bethany Arseneau, and great-grandchildren Orma Ashodian, Judah Ashodian, Gabriel Ashodian, and Rebelle Moseley. She was predeceased by her son, David.

The memorial service was followed by interment at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica, CA, and memorial luncheon at the Marina City Club in Marina del Rey. Memorial donations may be sent to the **AMAA, 31 West Century Road, Paramus, NJ 07652.**



Alidz Anspikian

Alidz Matossian Anspikian, an active member of the Evangelical Churches of Aleppo, Syria, Montreal, Canada, and Fresno, CA, was called to her heavenly home on June 12, 2018 to enjoy the presence of her Loving Lord, Jesus after battling cancer for almost a year. At the time of her passing, she was surrounded by her loved ones.



Alidz was born in Aleppo to a loving Christian couple, Matios and Josephine Matossian, on October 29, 1947. After earning her Baccalaureate, the family moved to Montreal, Canada where she worked at Concordia University as Executive Secretary, earned her bachelor's degree in Science, married her husband, Karekin Anspikian, and gave birth to their son, Ara.

Motherhood was a very sacred task for Alidz, so she resigned from her post and devoted her time to raising Ara in the way of the Lord. When Ara started high school, Alidz went back to her career and taught francophone adults English as a Second Language in public schools. During this time, she served her Church in many capacities: Choir member, VBS leader, Women's Seminar Leader, Assistant Treasurer, and Children's Choir Director with the assistance of 12-year-old Ara, who played the piano.

When the family moved to Fresno, Alidz worked at the First Armenian Presbyterian Church as Administrative Secretary and Office Manager. Her work was her Mission Field. After work hours, she taught Armenian newcomers English as a Second Language and later helped place them in appropriate jobs. When the Billy Graham Crusade arrived in Fresno in 2001, Alidz translated Dr. Graham's sermons spontaneously into the Armenian language for three consecutive nights. She also hosted the FAPC Armenian Radio Hour on Sunday mornings spreading the Good News of the Gospel.

During the last 15 years of her life, Alidz was hired by the Fresno County Department of Social Services to work as an Administrative Secretary and earned numerous awards. She and her husband attended the Pilgrim Armenian Cong'l Church and served both on Missions' and Deacons' Committees for over 10 years. Alidz was also a wonderful cook and every holiday she would gather all her loved ones around her table.

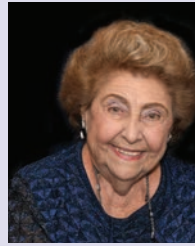
Alidz is survived by her husband Karekin who was at her bed side 24/7, son Dr. Ara Anspikian (Tricia), her precious two grandchildren, Arek and Eliot, sister Sonia Jemanjian (Alex), niece Natalie Hajian (Aram), and great niece, Noel Hajian.

A memorial service was held on June 23 at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church. Her sister Sonia praised God for her sister's 70 years of committed life to Christ and her son, Dr. Ara, shared his great admiration of his mom's steadfast faith even in her darkest hours. As a tribute to her faithful life he invited everyone to receive Jesus into their hearts.

The family requested that gifts may be sent to the Alidz Anspikian Endowment Fund established with the AMAA. □

Marjorie "Marge" Bogosian

Marjorie "Marge" Berberian Bogosian of Newtown Square, PA, member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown, PA and long-time supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), passed away on January 3, 2019. She was 86.



Marge was born on March 10, 1932, in Attleboro, MA to Leon and Takouhi Artinian Berberian. Marge's father was from Bulgaria and her mother from Turkey. The family grew to include four children including Harold Berberian, Virginia Gagorian and Rose Jigargian; Marge was the youngest. Mrs. Berberian died of cancer when Marge was only twelve years old and her father and sisters continued to raise Marge until adulthood.

Marge graduated from Attleboro High School and the Chandler School for Women, and then worked at the Balfour Company. In 1955, she married John S. Bogosian of Philadelphia at the Armenian Memorial Church in Watertown, MA. John and Marge settled in Havertown, PA and Marge worked in the Bridal Salon at the John Wanamaker Department Store in downtown Philadelphia. In 1957, their first child, John Paul, was born and so was their business, The Camera Shop, Inc. in Broomall, PA. Two daughters soon came along, Joanne in 1959 and Karen Leigh in 1963. While Marge supported John in growing the retail chain to over 100 stores on the East Coast, she also raised their children and cared for their home. In 1967, another company, Visual Sound, a commercial Audio-Visual Solutions company, was formed. At the time of Marge's passing, she was the company's chairwoman.

As a dedicated member of the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church since 1963, Marge and John formed a unique bond of life-long friendships. Marge served on many committees, including the Deacons, Trustees and Junior Women's Auxillary. She was on the steering committee when the first Armenian Evangelical World Conference and the Biennial Assembly of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America were held at Haverford College in Pennsylvania in 1978. Marge and John were also long-time supporters of the Armenian Students Association.

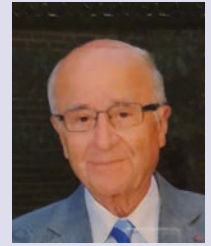
Marge spent her summers with her family in Ocean City, NJ, where she and John formed many close, special friendships that have lasted over forty-five years. Marge's greatest gift of all was her concern for others. Although Marge was on dialysis the last sixteen and a half years of her life, she never complained. She and John had a long, loving marriage that lasted over 52 years, until his death in 2007.

Marge is survived by her beloved children, Paul (Jen), Joanne (Rob) Ikeler, and Karen Bogosian, her twin grandchildren Alexa and Devon Ikeler, extended family, friends, church members, employees and business associates. All will remember her kindness, compassion and generosity.

A memorial service celebrating Marge's life was held on January 26 at the Armenian Martyrs' Congregational Church of Havertown. □

Henry Hadidian, M.D.

Henry A. Hadidian, M.D. a longtime resident of Munster, IN, passed away at Munster Community Hospital on January 8, 2019 at the age of 83.



The Hadidian Family has been a strong supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America and the Armenian Evangelical School of Anjar, where their father served as the Church Pastor and the School Principal.

Born in Bitias, Musa Ler in October 1935, Henry was the second child of Rev. Aram Hadidian and Gaida Ovsanna Hasserjian. In 1939, when the Musa Ler of Iskendarun was annexed to Turkey, the Hadidian family moved with the Musa Ler Armenians to Lebanon and settled in Zahle. Rev. Hadidian continued to serve as Pastor of his congregation that had settled in Anjar, helping them establish the Armenian Evangelical Church in Anjar. In 1947, the Hadidian family moved to Nor Marash, in Bourj Hamoud, Lebanon when Rev. Hadidian became Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Church of Nor Marash. Henry attended Central High School, the Armenian Evangelical College and later the Medical School of the American University of Beirut (AUB) graduating in 1960.

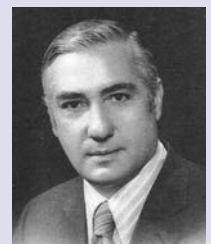
Upon graduation from the AUB Medical School, Dr. Hadidian moved to Munster, IN and practiced cardiovascular medicine for over 45 years. He was respected by his peers and loved by his patients. He served on the Board of St. Catherine Hospital in East Chicago, IN for 20 years. He served on the Lake County Medical Society Board, as well as Medical Staff President at St. Catherine and numerous hospital related committees for over 40 years.

Henry is survived by his wife of 47 years, Carol, three sons, Michael, Richard and Christopher, brother, John and his wife, Muriel and sister, Laura and her husband, Avedis Khachadurian, M.D. of Princeton, NJ.

Per Henry's wishes funeral services and interment were private. Memorial donations may be made in Henry's name to the AMAA. □

Sarkis Hanenian

Sarkis Hanenian of Montreal, QC, Canada, beloved husband, father, grandfather and successful businessman, went peacefully to his eternal resting home on December 15, 2018. He was 92.



Born to Hagop and Vergin Hanenian on December 25, 1926, Sarkis was raised in Alexandria, Egypt and attended the Armenian Evangelical

Church, where he accepted Christ as his personal Savior at the age of 19. He was a devoted member of the Church, faithfully serving the Lord in many capacities. In 1955 he married the Church pianist Païlig Shakarian. In 1959, due to the difficult political situation in the country, he left Egypt and settled with his young family in Montreal, Canada.

Life was difficult in their early years in Montreal. There weren't many Armenians living there, but they soon found a few and together they prayed and studied the Bible in their own language and subsequently with some of them founded the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal in 1960. For years, Sarkis served as a Board Member and as a lay pastor, teacher and treasurer at the Church. He and his wife opened their home as a parsonage for many guest preachers for many years.

In 1976, Sarkis established a successful import business of surgical supplies which were sold to hospitals and clinics. Throughout the years, he was able to employ many people. Even though the business required a lot of time and dedication, he always put God first.

Sarkis lived a life of faith in God and not only talked about Christ to others but also lived an exemplary Christian life. He loved to help people in need and visited the sick. He was a Godly example in every area of life, ministry, family, business and community. He will be remembered by his smiling face, positive attitude, commitment and love for the Lord. Today, the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Montreal, by God's grace, is well established and thriving.

Sarkis is survived by his wife Païlig of 63 years, his daughter Carolyn, son Raffi, daughter in law Mary and grandchildren Lauren, James and Owen. □

Violet Karagozian

Violet Jamgochian Karagozian went to be with the Lord on January 1, 2019. She was 98.

Violet was born on December 8, 1920 in Chicago, IL to Aram Jamgochian and Arousyag Chivian Jamgochian, both from the town of Malatia in historic Armenia. She was a graduate of Roosevelt High School and the Chicago Teachers College, where she was elected to Kappa Mu Epsilon (Mathematics) and Mu Beta Phi (Science). In 1943, the family moved to Los Angeles where she earned her master's in teaching mathematics at USC.

In Los Angeles, Violet taught mathematics at Woodrow Wilson and Westchester High Schools, serving as Department chair at both schools and led seminars for mathematics teachers in the Los Angeles City School District. She loved her students and taught with enthusiasm for their success. She and her parents were also faithful members of St. James Armenian Church in Los Angeles.

Violet married Albert Karagozian, CPA, in 1955, and they were blessed with two daughters, Ann Renee and Amy Ruth. Violet took early retire-



ment from her career in education and became a full-time homemaker, serving as devoted wife, mother, and eventually grandmother. She held office in the local and district PTA, March of Dimes, United Way, and Red Cross. Together with her family, Violet was a member of the Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, and later of the United Armenian Congregational Church of Hollywood. She served as Sunday School Teacher and Superintendent at both Immanuel and United, and at UACC she served for several terms on the Board of Deacons, in the Chancel Choir, and as Secretary and Devotional Chair of the Women's Guild. She followed her mother in becoming an active member of the Daughters of Vartan, LA Chapter. Violet later served as local matron and national (grand) matron of the Daughters of Vartan.

Violet was a teacher and a learner. Through the years she enjoyed classes in sewing, knitting, cooking, calligraphy, computer software, painting and poetry. Her most profound studies began in 1985 when she enrolled in the Community Bible Study (CBS) of Santa Monica, serving in the early years as a children's leader, and remaining a committed student of God's Word throughout her life.

Violet is survived by her beloved husband Albert, daughters Ann (Ted Sarafian) and Amy, and grandchildren Joseph (Celina) Sarafian, Abigail (Tyler) Sarafian-Hiebert and Mary Kavonian.

A Memorial Service celebrating Violet's life was held on Saturday, January 12, 2019 at the United Armenian Congregational Church of Los Angeles, CA. Donations in Violet's precious memory may be made to the United Armenian Congregational Church; Daughters of Vartan PCEF; Community Bible Study, Santa Monica; OASIS Poetry Workshop, West Los Angeles; Medical Home Visit Program, UCLA Division of Geriatrics; Armenian Missionary Association of America; or to the American University of Armenia. □

Seza Sarmazian

Seza Proodian Sarmazian of Toronto, ON, Canada passed away on January 29, 2019 after fighting cancer courageously for over two years. She was 73.

Seza was born on March 21, 1946 in Aleppo, Syria, the second of four children of Raffi and Manoushag Proodian. She was the younger sister of Zabel, and the older sister of Berj and Vatche.

She received her education at the Oosoomnasiratz Elementary School, followed by Karen Jeppe High School (Jemaran). In November 1967, Seza married Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, who was the Pastor of the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Church in Aleppo. The couple were blessed with their first child, Sevag in 1968, after which they moved to Beirut, Lebanon. There Seza enrolled at Haigazian College (now University), graduating in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts (with Honors) degree in English Literature. She began her teaching career at Shamlian Tatikian High



School in Nor Marash, Bourdj Hamoud, and later became Kindergarten Superintendent at Central High School in Ashrafieh.

In 1976, Seza and Rev. Yessayi were blessed with their second son, Saro. In 1980, the family emigrated to Toronto, Canada, where they were blessed in 1981 with their third son, Sarmen.

Seza primarily taught English and ESL at various Toronto-area high schools. She loved teaching her students, especially her ESL students with whom she could greatly empathize.

The lights of Seza's life were her six grandchildren whom she spoiled and showered with love until her last day. In person or during daily FaceTime calls, they brightened her day and learned so much from their beloved medzmama.

Whether in Aleppo, Beirut, or Toronto, Seza was always serving her church, using her God-given talents to lead the Ladies Auxiliary and teaching Sunday School or VBS. Her love of cooking and hospitality were enjoyed by many, and through her strong example she mentored countless others to strengthen their faith and commitment to the Lord.

Her last few awake hours were spent in the company of her husband, sister, her three sons with their wives, and her six grandchildren, where she was able to speak to each of them and provide last words of advice or encouragement. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Yessayi, siblings Zabel, Berj and Vatche, her sons and their families, Sevag and Arpi (Talar, Arek and Aline) Saro and Cate (Loic and June), and Sarmen and Araz (Vemm).

May God bless her memory, and may her spirit continue to watch over us. □

Jesus said... "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

John 11:25-26

The AMAA Board of Directors and staff wish to extend their heartfelt condolences to the families of the following deceased friends.

* **Theophile Balian**
Fresno, CA

* **Avedis Boyajian**
Pawtucket, RI

* **Berge Mamalian**
New Port Beach, CA

Caroline Nahabedian
Aston, PA

* *Memorials designated for AMAA*

BOOKS

160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH (in English and Armenian), by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, *Articles and lectures by the author, lectures by Armenian Evangelical ministers and lay leaders presented at the All Armenian Evangelical Conference held in Yerevan, Armenia, Sept. 15-17, 2006 and a brief report on the 160th Anniversary celebrations held in Armenia.* #327 \$30.00

THE ARMENIAN ANSWER TO THE ARMENIAN QUESTION, by Richard Melikian, *This book is not about the past. It is about the future.* pb #CO355 \$12.00

ACADEMIES FOR ANATOLIA, by Frank A. Stone, *A Study of the Rationale, Program, and Impact of the Educational Institutions Sponsored by the American Board in Turkey, 1830-2005.* 400 pp, #325 \$39.99

ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY - THE FAITH OF A NATION, by Rev. Dr. Aharon Sapsezian, *A historical look at Christianity in the Armenian culture.* pb #252 \$10.00

ARMENIAN EVANGELICALS' CHALLENGE TO RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM: The Growing Influence of Fundamentalism in Armenian Evangelical Churches. by Dr. Arthur Salibian. pb #361 \$8.00

ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT - HISTORY, FAITH AND MISSION, by Rev. Barkev N. Darakjian, *The book consists of two parts: Armenian Evangelical Movement and General Articles,* 249 pp, pb #341 \$15.00

THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL WORLD COUNCIL, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, *A Bilingual Book, is the History of the Armenian Evangelical World Council from its inception in 1978 through the year 2014.* pp. 397, hc #CO356 \$35.00

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE, Compiled and edited by Wolfgang Gust. *Evidence from the German Foreign Office Archives, 1915-1916.* 800 pp, hc #349 \$75.00

ARMENIAN NEEDLELACE & EMBROIDERY, by Alice Odian Kasparian, *A photographic collection of more than 100 priceless specimens (a third in color),* 127 pp, hc #120 \$5.00

THE BENEFITS & CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH TO THE ARMENIAN NATION, by Rev. Dr. Vahan Tootikian, hc #295 \$20.00

BLESSINGS IN BITTER CUPS, by Rev. Dr. Giragos Chopourian. *A triumphant story of a small clan of successful working class Armenians living in Turkey just prior to World War I.* hc #305 \$20.00

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ARMENIA, by Rev. Sarkis Papajian, 134 pp, pb #140 \$5.00

A CENTURY OF ARMENIAN PROTESTANTISM (1846-1946), by Leon Arpee. *The history of the Armenian Evangelical movement from its beginning to 1946.* hc #365 \$20.00

CLAWS OF THE CRAB: GEORGIA AND ARMENIA IN CRISIS, by Stephen Brook, 354 pp, hc #237 \$25.00

ESCAPE TO MUSA DAGH OR THE BANISHMENT OF ZEITOUN AND SUEDEA'S REVOLT, by Rev. D. Antreassian, 74 pp, pb #259 \$7.00

EXPLORING OUR FAITH: In the Words of the Apostles' Creed. by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji. pb #358 \$10.00

A HISTORY OF ARMENIAN CHRISTIANITY, by Leon Arpee. *A fairly objective overview of the Christian pilgrimage of the Armenian people throughout the centuries.* hc #366 \$30.00

HISTORY OF THE ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL CHURCHES OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, - *History of AEUNA churches, their founders, locations, pastors, leaders, and programs.* #401CO \$10.00

IS SHALL NOT DIE, By Rev. Nerses Sarian. *The personal accounts of Rev. Sarian's survival story during the Armenian Genocide.* 156 pp., pb #347 \$12.00

THE MARTYRED ARMENIAN WRITERS 1915-1922: AN ANTHOLOGY, By Herand M. Markarian. 250 pp, pb #362C \$20.00

MUSA DAGH GIRL, By Virginia Matosian Apelian *Daughter of Armenian Genocide Survivors, the author tells of her loving upbringing against a dark historical background.* 548 pp, #501CO \$30.00

NEITHER TO LAUGH NOR TO WEEP, By Rev. Abraham H. Hartunian (Translated by Rev. Vartan Hartunian). *A memoir of the Armenian Genocide* pb #56C \$12.95

IN OTHER WORDS, by Rev. Dr. Peter Doghramji. *A variety of selected sermons.* #310 \$20.00

POINTS OF LIFE, by Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni *The story of a thoughtful Pastor who experiences life's positive and negative encounters and considers their impact on his life and ministry* #381 \$15.00

THE RECIPES OF MUSA DAGH, by Alberta, Anna and Louisa Magzanian. *An Armenian Cookbook in a Dialect of its own.* 196 pp, pb, #364CO \$19.50

RECLAIMING KONIA, by Heather Ruth Martin. *A tale of love, loss and the Armenian Genocide - based on the true story of Melkon Jenanyan.* pb #376CO \$14.99

SHOWERS OF GRACE, by Arousiag Tovmassian Missirlian. *A Memoir of God's abundant blessings throughout a lifetime of Christian service.* #346 \$20.00

SURVIVAL OR REVIVAL, by Carnegie S. Calian, *Ten keys to church vitality.* #278 \$17.00

THE THIRSTY ENEMY - A MEMOIR, by Dr. John Markarian. *It tells about the beginning steps in the creation of Haigazian College (now University), an institution of higher learning, and finds its theme in seven years of war, giving a drink to the thirsty Enemy.* 438 pp, pb #335 \$15.00

TORN BETWEEN TWO LANDS, by Robert Mirak, *Armenians in America 1890 to World War I. A comprehensive study of the Armenian community in America.* #121 \$25.00

THE TREATMENT OF ARMENIANS IN THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE 1915-1916, By Viscount Bryce. *Documents presented to Viscount Grey of Fallodon Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.* hc #14f \$23.00

WHISPER OF THE ROOTS - Արմատներու Մրմունքը, by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian. *A bilingual book (Armenian and English) presents the surviving Armenian Evangelical Sanctuaries and Buildings of Affiliated Educational Institutions in Historical Armenia and Cilicia with a photo gallery.* 134 pp, pb #363CO \$20.00

THE YOUTH HOME OF ISTANBUL: by Hrant Guzelian. *A story of the Remnant's Homecoming.* pb #357 \$20.00

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նական Աղօթքը - Հեղինակ՝ Վեր. Նշան Պապեան եւ Վեր.
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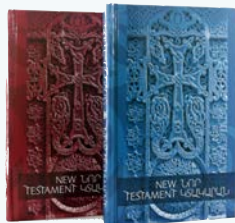
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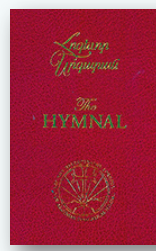
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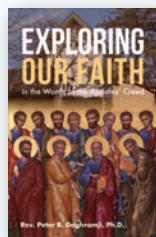
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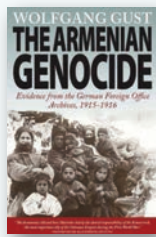
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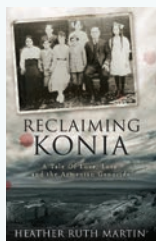
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«...Երիտասարդները տեսիլքներ
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Dear Friend of Christian Armenia:-

The tragic fate of Armenia in the World War has shocked the conscience of Christian people of America, but a new day has dawned for Armenia. Her rehabilitation must begin with the Church. For these people need the Church to restore their shattered nerves, and build up their broken morale, to bind their wounds and to inspire them with new hope.

During the war most of the church edifices were totally destroyed or partially damaged. These have to be rebuilt or repaired. More than one half of the pastors have suffered martyrdom. A trained body of Armenian pastors have to be sent from America to man the pulpits. All Christian literature has been practically wiped out. New Christian literature must be furnished. To meet this great emergency the Armenian Missionary Association of America is now carrying on a campaign to raise the sum of at least \$500,000 to be known as the Martyr's Memorial Fund. This money will be used for the rehabilitation and maintenance of the Evangelical Churches of Armenia as a living monument to the memory of the martyrs.

The Armenians in America are giving most generously, their resources, however, are limited and we need the generous help of the Christian friends of Armenia. We are looking for five hundred generous friends who would be moved to contribute \$1,000 each towards the Martyrs Memorial Fund. We are in hopes that you may be one of these good friends.

Armenia has suffered and bled for her Christian faith. Shall we deny her the comfort of the church in her days of rebirth? In the name of Christ and of his church, we appeal to you to lend a hand across the sea, by a generous contribution, and help the church to take once more its rightful place, as one of the constructive factors in the moulding of the new life of free Armenia.

Yours in the service of Christ and His Church,

M. T. Kalaidjian
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